

more than a method of effecting a "cure" for excessive sexuality. His "patients," by the way, appear to live in social milieu that Casonova would have envied. This may be true of the senior ranks of the services abroad; but such cases are not typical of what Richard Aldington has called "a country of sexual prohibition" where the average man or woman finds it difficult to obtain reasonable sexual experience under decent conditions. I rather suspect that Mr. Landau has sometimes been deceived by the tendency of the neurotic to exaggerate the enormity of his delinquencies. With regard to faith he says: "The birth of an illegitimate child, venereal disease, the breaking up of a marriage, a friendship, or a home, exposure to blackmail, social scandal—any of these, and a hundred other causes, may lead to the awakening." If faith is occasioned by such fortuitous and largely preventable calamities, are not materialistic explanations of its nature invited?

This work may be commended to the general reader for its interesting facts and its kindly commonsense. It has little to offer the specialist; and the religious motif will exasperate the theologian almost as much as the sceptic.

ALEC CRAIG.

PSYCHOLOGY

Deutsch, Helene. *Psychology of Women.*

Vol. I: *Girlhood.* London, 1946.

Research Books Ltd. Pp. xi+312.

Price 21s.

THIS is the first of two volumes on feminine psychology by Dr. Deutsch; the second will deal with motherhood. Although the title is "girlhood," the first chapter deals with the pre-puberty phase and subsequent ones are concerned with early puberty, puberty and adolescence and menstruation. Then five chapters are devoted to the various female psychoanalytical types and finally an important chapter is included on the influence of the environment. True to psychoanalytical theory, however, female behaviour both at puberty and in adult life is determined by the previous events of infancy and early life.

The examination of the adult psyche can therefore be made only in the light of what has gone before.

Dr. Deutsch formulates her understanding of women's psychology as the theme of a recurring triangle situation which has as its prototype the little girl's relationship with her parents. This recurs at puberty in the form of bisexuality, a struggle between homo- and hetero-sexuality, the latter winning through the pressure of developing physiological factors. But the struggle may be protracted and subsequently in adult life the characters of her loves and hates reveal the partial quality of that victory. The prototype situation contains the elements out of which the personality is forged. In the child-parent relationship there are many mothers and fathers; "there is a beloved mother and a hated mother; a sublime ideal mother and a disreputable sexual one; a mother who has castrated the father, and another who has been castrated by him; one who bears children and one who kills them; one who nourishes them and another who poisons them; there is the rival, and the personification of security and protection." So also there are many fathers. Operating within this framework of possibilities, the instinctual drives with their aggressive and masochistic components have the task of adjusting to the reality of the girl's real environment. The eventual personality development may be towards the feminine passive woman or the "active" woman with masculinity complex. There are many subtypes and many intermediate and mixed forms. Essentially the feminine personality is characterized by passive-masochistic instinctual drives, narcissistic components of the ego, and the emotional prerequisites for motherhood. Woman's capacity for identification is both her charm and her weakness. Her eroticism is dependent on a harmonious integration of these components and may be inhibited by the excessive development of any one of them. In most cases the interplay between narcissism and masochism explains the behaviour of feminine women. In the account of "active" types, Dr. Deutsch's theme is less convincing. She relies more on

the characters from great literature than on her clinical experience; but the life of the unhappy George Sand provides the psychological material for a moving account of unresolved ambivalence towards the bisexual disposition. But according to the author the essential core of woman is always feminine; beneath the façade of aggressive masculinity is the tenderness and desire for feminine gratification which has been renounced.

To the general reader, many, indeed the majority of works by psychoanalysts leave the impression of the psyche's isolation from its environment. The personalities in the individual's life who are so powerfully represented in the private universe of her psychic structure have no "real" existence for her. They exist only in so far as they are the symbols of pleasure or "unpleasure," frustration or gratification. To a certain extent the writer's sympathy and admiration for her sex has transcribed this basic Freudianism into acceptable terms. It is true that many of the portraits in her gallery say unaffectedly "if I love you, what is that to you?", yet the unreal solipsistic view of interpersonal relationships is avoided.

There is evidence in this book of a tendency now developing in certain psychoanalytical circles towards a broader theoretical basis in the recognition of general biological and sociological principles. We are not concerned here with divergences of opinion among theorists about such matters as the importance of penis envy in the development of the "active" woman, although most will welcome Dr. Deutsch's rejection of the importance of this concept, always difficult to accept. More important is the fact that the writer recognizes the predisposing influences of the somatic constitution. The initial bisexual nature of the constitution is entirely in keeping with the recent findings of physiological psychology. Hormones are found to influence the maturation processes by which the differentiation of heterosexuality and its accompanying psychological valencies are brought about.

The influence of the social and cultural milieu on woman's psyche is considered in

the last chapter. Here again the author depends little upon her personal experience and relies on the account of three generations of women in the Russian Revolution by Alexandra Kollontay in her book *The Ways of Love*. The release of "activity" in woman as a result of social and cultural upheavals is recognized as a fact of overt behaviour. Yet this is only a superficial intensification of one side of the psychic equilibrium. The feminine core remains unchanged. "The primeval feminine Autonoë, the fertile Demeter, the motherless Pallas Athene, the androgynous Amazon are all creations of a mythologic fantasy; yet they seem to have existed in all societies, . . . recur constantly, always the same, yet always different, according to their culture, their race and the degree of historical development of their society." This book will be welcomed for its sincerity and real insight. With an approach nearer to that of the general biological sciences, it is a significant contribution towards establishing common ground among the various schools studying human behaviour.

DENIS HILL.

MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

Schmiedeler, Father Edgar. *Marriage and the Family. A Text for a Course on Marriage and the Family for use in Catholic Schools.* New York and London, 1946. McGraw-Hill. Pp. xii+285. Price 9s.

THE number of American text-books on the subject of marriage and the family grows apace, and the field must be near saturation point. This book justifies its existence, however, by taking a particular approach and catering for a particular community. The author is a Roman Catholic priest, who has recently been appointed a vice-chairman of one of the Committees of the National Conference on Family Relations in the U.S.A., and is the author of several other works in this field. The book is expressly designed